Written by Mike Kelly
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Seniors Josh Wyant and Kayla Schneider of Watauga High School were named this year's winners of the Trailblazer and Hall of Fame Awards.

Wyant, who transferred to WHS from Maiden, won the Trailblazer Award, which goes to the top male athlete of the year. Wyant was a huge asset to the Pioneers baseball team. He gave them a steady glove at second base, and he batted .374 with six doubles and an on-base percentage of .426.

"Josh fit in with us very well," senior Cal Hardee said, during a guest appearance on the dugout show. "Losing Chris (
Shelton to graduation) was a big concern, but Josh stepped right in. It was a perfect fit. It's like we had been playing together for a long time."

Schneider, who will run track and cross country at Appalachian State University next season, won the Hall of Fame Award, which goes to the top female athlete of the year. She was on Watauga's record-breaking 4x800 relay team that finished sixth at the state meet on May 22. That group set a new school record in that event with an effort of 9:33.52, breaking the old mark of 9:34.9, which stood for 12 years (1998). She was also had a 39th-place finish at the Class 4A state cross country meet last fall.

"It's been a lot of fun this season," Schneider said just before the state track meet on May 20. "Our track team has put together a very good season. It's a hard working group. I've really enjoyed myself, and going to Appalachian State next season makes it real special."

Wide receiver Travis Oliver of the Pioneers received the first annual Tommy Wright Physical Education Award. Oliver, who will play college football at Emory & Henry this fall, caught a team-leading 30 passes for 692 yards and eight touchdowns. He was a two-year starter on the football team.

"Playing on Saturday's is a dream come true for me," Oliver said, when he signed his national letter of intent with Emory & Henry back in February. "I was afraid I wasn't going to get the chance to play. But I'm thankful that Emory & Henry gave me this opportunity. I've been working my whole life for this."